**To:**

 **Ms. Aphrodite Smagadi**, Secretary to Compliance Committee

of the UN ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Environment and Human Settlement Division

Geneva, Switzerland

**From:**

**European ECO Forum Legal Focal Points**

*represented by*

**Mr. Andriy Andrusevych,**

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**COMMUNICANT’S POSITION**

**ON IMPLEMENTATION**

**BY BELARUS OF DECISION IV/9B AND COMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATIONS IN RELATION TO COMMUNICATION C/44 (BELARUS)**

 This letter outlines communicant’s (ACCC/C/2009/44) position on implementation of the decision IV/9b by the Government of Belarus and Committee’s recommendations in relation to our case (ACC/C/2009/44).

 The communicant regrets to see **no report at all by the Government of Belarus of the recommendations made by the Compliance Committee in relation to communication C/44**.

 The communicant regrets to see no response to its concerns expressed in the letter of December 15, 2011, as well as subsequent comments on the Action Plan (in particular, those related to misunderstanding of the MOP’s recommendations by the Party concerned).

 The communicant wishes to reconfirm its allegation as to continuing harassment of the environmental activists in Belarus. It is obvious that the government would never admit political reasons of the detention and arrest of three environmentalists in July 2012. **The communicant believes that those facts are sufficient for a separate communication in relation to compliance with Article 3.8 of the Aarhus Convention.**

 The communicant is also concerned about low pace of implementation of the Decision IV/9b despite positive expectations given by the Action Plan adoption.

 The communicant also brings attention of the Compliance Committee to the information submitted by Ecohome, an NGO from Belarus, raising numerous facts of continuing practical non-compliance by various public authorities with the public participation requirements of the Aarhus Convention.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the communicant,

Andriy Andrusevych

Resource & Analysis Center “Society and Environment”